a first handle member;

a second handle member;

first and second mating jaw members associated with the first and second handle members, respectively, the jaw members being movable by the handle members between a first open position to receive tissue therebetween and a second clamped position compressing the tissue, the jaw members having outer surfaces with opposed mating surfaces, each mating surface having a width;

a first elongated electrically conductive member carried by the first jaw member;

a second elongated electrically conductive member carried by the second jaw member;

the first and second conductive members each having a width of less than or equal to one-third the width of its associated mating surface and being adapted to be connected to an RF energy source so that, when activated, the first and second conductive members conduct electrical current through tissue clamped between the jaw members.

2. (Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein the conductive members are less than or equal to 1.25mm in width.

3. (Amended) The device of claim 2 wherein the conductive members are between approximately 0.12 to 0.6 mm in width.

4. (Amended) A tissue grasping apparatus for forming a transmural lesion in cardiac tissue, comprising:

first and second grasping jaws, the grasping jaws being relatively moveable between open and closed positions, respectively, to receive and compress tissue therebetween; each jaw having a width including an elongated electrically conductive member and a clamping surface in face-to-face relation with the electrically conductive member and clamping surface of the other jaw; the face-to-face electrodes being connectible to RF energy power source for providing an electrical current through tissue clamped between the jaws, the electrodes having a width of less than or equal to one-third the width of its associated jaw.

5. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the electrically conductive members are less than or equal to 1.25 mm in width.

6. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the electrically conductive members are between approximately 0.12 to 0.6 mm in width.

7. (New) The device of Claim 1 wherein each jaw member has a facing, tissue-engaging non-conductive surface and the elongated conductive member is generally centrally located relative to such surface.

8. (New) The device of Claim 7 wherein each tissue engaging surface has a generally centrally located slot extending along the jaw member.

9. (New) The device of Claim 7 in which each conductive member is at least partially disposed within the respective jaw member.

10. (New) The device of Claim 8 in which at least a portion of the conductive member extends through the slot to contact tissue clamped between the jaw members.

11. (New) The device of Claim 7 in which the tissue engaging surface and conductive member each have a width and the width of the conductive member is less than or equal to 1/3 the width of the of the engaging surface.

12. (New) The device of Claim 1 in which at least one of the conductive members defines an interior lumen.

13. (New) The device of Claim 1 in which at least one of the conductive members is a wire.

14. (New) The device of Claim 1 in which at least one of the conductive members has a convex tissue-engaging surface.

15. (New) The device of Claim 8 in which the tissue engaging surface and slot each have a width and the width of the slot is less than or equal to 1/3 the width of the tissue engaging surface.

16. (New) The device of Claim 10 in which the portion of the conductive member extending through the slot and the tissue engaging surface each has a width and the width of the conductive

member portion is less than or equal to 1/3 the width of the tissue engaging surface.

17. (New) The device of Claim 14 wherein each jaw has a facing, tissue-engaging non-conductive surface and the elongated conductive member is generally centrally located relative to such surface.

18. (New) The device of Claim 17 wherein each tissue engaging surface has a generally centrally located slot extending along the jaw.

19. (New) The device of Claim 17 in which each conductive member is at least partially disposed within the respective jaw and current flows through the slot to tissue clamped between the jaws.

20. (New) The device of Claim 18 in which at least a portion of the conductive member extends through the slot to contact tissue clamped between the jaws.

21. (New) The device of Claim 17 in which the tissue engaging surface and conductive member each have a width and the width of the conductive member is less than or equal to 1/3 the width of the of the engaging surface.

22. (New) The device of Claim 14 in which at least one of the conductive members defines an interior lumen.

23. (New) The device of Claim 14 in which at least one of the conductive members is a wire.

24. (New) The device of Claim 14 in which at least one of the conductive members has a convex tissue-engaging surface.